

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for saving operational setting of an instrument, run by software, comprising the steps of:

initiating the saving operation;

initializing, by each software object, of any software object below it;

initializing the internal variables belonging to the software objects; and

saving the results to a file.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the file is modular.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the internal variable is designated in the file by a hierarchical path.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the internal variable is designated in the file by a hierarchical address.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the format of the file is human readable text.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the file constitutes a computer program.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the computer program in an industry standard programming language.

8. The method of claim 8 wherein the industry standard programming language is Visual Basic Script.

9. An apparatus for saving operational settings of an instrument, run by software, comprising:

means for initiating the saving operation;

means for initializing, by each software object, of any software object below it;

means for initializing the internal variables belonging to the software objects;

and

means for saving the results to a file.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the file is modular.

11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the internal variable is designated in the file by a hierarchical path.

12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the internal variable is designated in the file by a hierarchical address.

13. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the format of the file is human readable text.
14. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the file constitutes a computer program.
15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the computer program in an industry standard programming language.
16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the industry standard programming language is Visual Basic Script.

DISCOVERED INFORMATION